United Nations A/C.2/66/SR.21

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
1 February 2012

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 21st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 24 October 2011, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Zdorov (Vice-Chair) ..... (Belarus)

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Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*)

In the absence of Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Zdorov (Belarus), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.5 and L.7)

Draft resolution on the international financial system and development (A/C.2/66/L.5)

1. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.5 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on excessive international financial market speculation and extreme price volatility of food and related commodity markets (A/C.2/66/L.7)

2. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.7 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.9)

Draft resolution on external debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/66/L.9)

3. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.9 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.11)

Draft resolution on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.2/66/L.11)

4. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.11 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.13)

Draft resolution on culture and development (A/C.2/66/L.13)

5. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.13 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 22: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.8)

Draft resolution on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/66/L.8)

6. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.8 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.14)

Draft resolution on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (A/C.2/66/L.14)

7. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.14 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.15)

Draft resolution on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/C.2/66/L.15)

8. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.15 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Women in development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.12)

Draft resolution on women in development (A/C.2/66/L.12)

9. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.12 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) Human resources development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.10)

Draft resolution on human resources in development (A/C.2/66/L.10)

10. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.10 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.6)

Draft resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/66/L.6)

11. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.6 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.2, L.3 and L.4)

Draft resolution on South-South cooperation (A/C.2/66/L.2)

12. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.2 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South cooperation (A/C.2/66/L.3)

13. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.3 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Draft resolution on United Nations Day for South-South cooperation (A/C.2/66/L.4)

14. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.4 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*) (A/66/76-E/2011/102 and A/66/277)

15. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the region had been hard hit by higher, more volatile food prices. Recognizing the need for a fundamental transformation of the agricultural sector, CARICOM had launched the Jagdeo Initiative which, in view of the strategic importance of agriculture in the region, set agricultural sector priorities aimed at boosting domestic consumption and cost-efficient production of food and moving into higher value niche markets. Its regional policy for food and Nutrition Security was designed to ensure safe and affordable food for consumers at all times.

16. He expressed the hope that CARICOM's partner nations and agencies would continue to provide the resources needed to build agriculturally critical infrastructure, carry out research and development and provide credit for smallholder farmers and recognized the efforts made by many global actors and groups, including the Group of 20 (G-20), to place global food security on a surer footing. He also welcomed the progress made in the reform of the Committee on World Food Security.

17. The region's agricultural development strategy was premised on achieving greater competitiveness and on the existence of a fair multilateral trading system for agricultural products; in other words, on bringing the Doha Development Round to a successful conclusion and eliminating the distortions in global agricultural markets. In view of rising food prices and increased food insecurity, the time had come to exploit the synergies between agricultural and economic development by mainstreaming agriculture and food security into development policies. With developing countries struggling to address food security and climate change at the same time, it was important for the international community to scale up its support for agricultural development.

18. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that with food prices at an all-time high and extreme weather making crop yields less predictable, a concerted effort was vital to tackle the global problem of food security. Since 2009, the Association's food security policies had been guided by the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security. Other related regional initiatives included the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve and the ASEAN Food Security Information System, which provided early warning information on the productivity of staple crops. ASEAN was committed to strengthening market mechanisms so as to bring small farmers into the global value chain and creating a well-functioning food market conducive to agricultural development in the developing countries. It therefore called for the earliest possible conclusion of the Doha Round.

19. Finally, he said that ASEAN applauded the active role of FAO in promoting rural development and food security in the ASEAN countries and looked forward to increased collaboration with it and other United Nations agencies on agriculture and food security.

20. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union), noting that the world bore a collective responsibility to the hungry and undernourished, recalled that, in June, the G-20 had taken concrete action to address food price volatility by launching the Agricultural Market Information System and agreeing to eliminate export restrictions on food purchased for humanitarian purposes.

21. Sustainable agriculture development and land management could make farmers and communities more resilient and mitigate the effects of climate change. The European Union urged Member States to promote sustainable farming by supporting demand-led agricultural research and innovation. Its own international food security policy focused on improving the resilience of smallholder farmers, particularly women, and assisting vulnerable groups.

22. The European Union recognized the need for significant private investment in the agricultural sector in developing countries, but also for sound policies and an appropriate legal framework to ensure that such investment would foster broad-based growth, environmental sustainability and livelihood resilience. Accordingly, it welcomed the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land, as well as the initiative by the World Bank, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to develop a set of principles for responsible agro-investment.

23. Finally, recalling that the European Commission had recently signed a Strategic Framework of Cooperation with FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP), he said that the European Union would continue to work for a comprehensive agreement in the Doha Development Round.

24. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that there was a general consensus on the need for collective action in the short, medium and long term to address the global food crisis, at both national and international levels. In that connection, he endorsed the work being done by the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

25. Since the only way to solve the food security problem was by stepping up agricultural production, Russia was planning to develop and modernize its own agriculture, for it could become one of the world's key food suppliers. It was also participating more actively in international efforts to address the global food crisis by increasing its own food aid and contributing to agricultural development in developing countries. Over the biennium 2009-2011, Russia's contribution to the L'Aquila food security initiative would be 330 million dollars. In 2011, its annual contribution to the World Food Programme would amount to 20 million dollars, of which 5 million would go to Tajikistan, 5 million to

Kyrgyzstan, 5 million to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 2 million to the Palestinian Authority, and 1 million each to Guinea, Yemen and Kenya. Another 10 million dollars had been set aside for emergency assistance. Further humanitarian contributions were being planned for the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and northern Africa. In addition, under a pilot project for a network of school canteens, 8 million dollars of assistance would go to Armenia over a 3-year period. Through the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO), humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan would amount to 2 million dollars, to Kyrgyzstan 5 million, and to Côte d'Ivoire 1 million.

26. It was important to modernize the operations of the international food and agriculture institutions in order to react as needed to fluctuations in world grain prices.

27. **Mr. Daoud** (Sudan) said that rising food prices were jeopardizing developing countries' efforts to achieve food security. The international community should assist them and help them gain better access to world markets for their products and services.

28. The Sudan, for its part, had adopted a national agricultural strategy consisting of a "Green Mobilization" campaign, which was expected to yield positive results inter alia in the trade and transport sectors. It was also seeking to join the World Trade Organization, thus far without success, although it had met the criteria for membership.

29. The adverse impact of climate change on agricultural development called for application of the Rio principle of the common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed States should fulfil their commitments to the developing States in the matter of capacity-building and financial and technical support, especially in the agriculture sector, with a view to establishing an international trade regime based on partnership, justice and sustainable development.

30. **Ms. Masot Planas** (Cuba), after expressing solidarity with the countries of the Horn of Africa in their struggle against climate change-induced famine and drought, said that, in discussing agriculture development and food security issues, the Committee should not duplicate or seek to replace the work of FAO. The reformed Committee on World Food Security of FAO must remain the primary forum for such discussions.

31. In its report, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* 2011, FAO indicated that high and volatile food prices were expected to continue and called for forceful action to banish food insecurity from the planet. However, as long as transnational agribusiness controlled such things as food prices, technologies and distribution channels that would not be possible. It would be helpful if the countries that had pledged to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to official development assistance (ODA) stood by their promise and also designated part of that ODA to support agricultural production in developing countries. Moreover, the production and consumption patterns of the developed world were environmentally destructive and should be replaced with sustainable ways of life.

32. Cuba had already achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and was cooperating with other developing countries, in accordance with the principles of solidarity and mutual assistance.

33. Finally, noting that the long-standing cruel embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba was the main obstacle to the full enjoyment by Cubans of the inalienable right to food, she called for immediate action to eradicate hunger from the face of the Earth.

34. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that, according to World Bank estimates, rising food prices had pushed some 50 million people into poverty since June 2010. The United States remained determined to follow through on its pledge, made in 2009, to provide $3.5 billion to combat hunger over the next three years, and it urged all partners to honour their commitments as well. It was the largest donor of assistance to the Horn of Africa, where a massive international response was under way despite interference from Al-Shabaab and it was also supporting long-term food security in the region through its Feed the Future initiative, which emphasized broad-based economic growth as the foundation for sustainable development. It would be working with other donors in the region to increase overall agricultural production.

35. The United States strongly supported the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. As a partner in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, it was pleased to have participated in the recent high-level meeting on nutrition, which had focused on the progress made during the movement's first year.

36. WFP, IFAD and FAO should focus on cost savings to give donors best value for their money given the difficult economy. The newly reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) had the potential to become the foremost intergovernmental platform for stakeholders to work together in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger. However, to be successful, CFS must provide a forum for real cooperation among FAO, IFAD, WFP and other related United Nations agencies. The United States looked forward to the outcome of the CFS-led discussions on voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land.

37. Finally, he said that the world could not afford to marginalize women farmers. The United States had recently allocated $5 million for a new Feed the Future gender programme, that would, inter alia, promote gender integration into agricultural development and food security programming.

38. **Mr. Hashim** (Saudi Arabia) said that, conscious of the need for international cooperation to deal with the food crisis, Saudi Arabia had donated $500 million to the World Food Programme and was continuing to provide development assistance to developing and least developed countries (LDCs). It was also developing trade and consumption policies to ensure adequate food supplies, promoting sustainable development in the agriculture sector through the optimal use of natural resources, especially water, and encouraging the private sector to invest in countries with high agricultural potential.

39. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt) said that the international community needed to act immediately given the likelihood of a continued steep rise in food prices and the possibility of a continuing global food crisis due to climate change.

40. The multiple and complex causes of the food crisis required a coordinated international response. The international community must scale up investment in agriculture as a means both of increasing food production and of driving economic growth to support climate change adaption and mitigation. Developing countries would need technical and financial assistance to enhance the productivity and resilience of their agriculture in the face of crises. Stable and effective policies, regulatory mechanisms and functional market infrastructures that promoted investment in the agricultural sector were therefore of paramount importance.

41. **Mr. Diallo** (Senegal) said that, with billions of people still suffering from hunger and undernutrition after decades of efforts to achieve food security, it was essential to explore new alternatives. In April 2011, Senegal had organized the second Dakar International Agriculture Forum. The latter's recommendations included improving agricultural production in developing countries through applied research and enhanced international cooperation between public and private institutions, as well as promoting agricultural enterprises by means of ambitious training strategies and appropriate financing. In that connection, he invited the international community to increase its assistance to agriculture, encourage foreign direct investment by the private sector and explore the possibility of allocating a significant portion of the additional resources generated by innovative financing mechanisms to agriculture and rural development.

42. The recommendations also called, inter alia, for regulatory policies and for actions to improve soil structure, water quality and input availability. Lastly, because the world's food security governance mechanisms appeared increasingly inadequate, the forum had recommended the establishment of a global institution for agriculture and food governance.

43. Food security was a national development priority in Senegal. Its strategy, based on agricultural modernization, sustainable land management and the promotion of individual farm sectors, had given rise to many initiatives, including most recently the unionization of agricultural producers and the establishment of a rural "green bank". Its national agricultural insurance company provided an effective risk management mechanism.

44. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) called for concerted action to mitigate the impact of the global food crisis. The international community should work together to prevent future crises by reviewing fund allocation mechanisms, boosting food production and eliminating speculation in commodity markets, where 30 per cent of maize and wheat was now traded by financial enterprises.

45. Mexico had recently pledged $1 million for World Food Programme operations in the Horn of Africa. It agreed with the Group of 77 and China on the need for an open-ended working group to discuss

ways of reducing price volatility and speculation in commodity markets and it considered the conclusion of the Doha Round indispensable for moving forward on market integration and opening new fields of international agricultural commerce.

46. At the domestic level, Mexico had launched a programme to boost the production of staple crops by modernizing traditional farm practices. It would be happy to share the results of that and other experiments with interested Governments.

47. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that the economic and financial crisis and the food crisis were having devastating effects on developing countries, particularly LDCs. Those countries' plight was primarily due to incoherent international policies and to an environment in which development was seen from a purely commercial point of view and developed markets were protected by trade barriers.

48. It was time to fulfil the universal right to food by increasing efforts at all levels to make food security and agriculture development an integral part of the international development agenda. Increasing food production would require greater financial support and investment, particularly in LDCs. It would also require technical assistance including access to and transfer of technology. Developed countries should supply technology and high-yielding variety seeds on affordable, concessional terms. Moreover, farmers in developing countries must be given better access to global markets. Accordingly, his delegation called for an early conclusion of the Doha Round, and for the elimination of discriminatory subsidies.

49. Goal 1 of the MDGs, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, depended on the achievement Goal 8, a global partnership for development. Of all of the MDGs, Goal 8 was the only one with non-quantified targets. Had the international community been able to quantify the targets, most of the world's development problems would already have been solved.

50. **Ms. Chen** Yingzhu (China) said food security was crucial not only for the development and well-being of individual countries but also for global development and security. Accordingly, countries should invest more in agriculture, raise the scientific and technological levels of farming and promote food production in order to enhance the food production capacities of the developing countries.

51. Developed countries should move the Doha Round forward, show flexibility on agricultural subsidies and trade barriers, rein in commodity market speculation and strengthen the regulation of international capital flows and the financial derivatives market. They should also implement the L'Aquila declaration and other development assistance commitments and honour their international obligations. The developing countries for their part should strengthen South-South cooperation.

52. China supported the discussion of agriculture and food security as an important part of the green economy at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

53. Finally, he said that China attached great importance to agriculture. At home, it had achieved food security by relying on domestic production and improving productivity. Abroad, it was helping countries — particularly in Africa — develop agriculture and food production and had recently provided more than RMB 443.3 million in food assistance for the Horn of Africa. It stood willing to join hands with the international community to safeguard global food security and promote the timely realization of the MDGs.

54. **Ms. Esposito Guevara** (Bolivia) called for urgent action to address the famine in the Horn of Africa. To strengthen sustainable agriculture and food production in the developing countries, small- and medium-scale farmers needed equitable access to land, water, seeds and affordable credit, and financial institutions should be encouraged to provide more loans to finance local crop diversification. Developed countries must eliminate protectionist measures, as well as the food subsidies that had made developing countries net food importers over the past 20 years. However, the poorest countries should be allowed to shelter local agriculture in order to ensure food security. Food distribution mechanisms should be made more equitable by encouraging the development of public enterprises for food production, distribution and marketing.

55. **Mr. Bay** (Singapore) said that Singapore strongly supported multilateral initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Action Plan on Food Security and the Niigata declaration on APEC food security. In that connection, he drew attention to document A/65/832, which presented the views that the

Global Governance Group would share at the G-20 summit the following week.

56. The global food market was inherently volatile, but more so when countries implemented trade-restrictive policies. An open and equitable multilateral trading system was essential for long-term food security; thus a successful conclusion of the Doha Round would greatly help to reduce volatility.

57. Singapore imported more than 90 per cent of its food. To minimize its exposure to price volatility, it had diversified its imports and had encouraged Singaporean firms to explore contract farming and joint ventures overseas. It was also encouraging local farming and supporting research and development aimed at improving local productivity.

58. Singaporean universities and research laboratories were collaborating with the International Rice Research Institute to improve rice yields and disease resistance. As a research and development hub, Singapore was leveraging private-sector efforts and supporting agribusinesses attempting to apply genomics to agriculture.

59. In closing, he called on countries, Governments, academia and the private sector to join forces to bring about a new green revolution.

60. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) reiterated that the food crisis was the result of the global economic order and of economic policies that discouraged sustainable agriculture. Nicaraguan policies aimed to ensure both food security and food sovereignty. Thanks to its embrace of microcredit, Nicaragua had already attained Goal 1 of the MDGs.

61. Through microcredit programmes that emphasized the empowerment of women, it was promoting a revolutionary concept: the possibility of throwing off the oligarchic neoliberal model by empowering the deprived and strengthening small-scale farming. To ensure food security, the Government sold food at fair prices in 90 per cent of the country. Far from instituting a welfare State, Nicaragua was giving the poorest the tools they needed to grow food and get along on their own. None of the programmes would have been possible without the financing mechanisms of the Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América.

62. The requirements of the programmes themselves, together with sales in the local market, had given a substantial boost to the national economy. However, all of Nicaragua's efforts were being threatened by the effects of climate change.

63. **Ms. Prorok** (Ukraine) said that her country was in favour of closer cooperation between FAO, IFAD, WFP and international financial institutions. It supported the United Nations Comprehensive Framework for Action on the global food crisis and welcomed the contributions of the G-8 and the G-20.

64. To improve food security and stabilize grain prices, her delegation proposed the creation of a world grain reserve to be operated by FAO and funded by international financial institutions. As one of the world's major grain producers, Ukraine would contribute significant stores.

65. Given the importance of agriculture development to development as a whole, it was essential to address that topic in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as to improve implementation of the decisions of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

66. Ukraine was strongly committed to achieving Goal 1 of the MDGs and would continue working to mitigate the world food crisis. It had recently pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to the countries in the Horn of Africa.

67. **Mr. Singh** (India) said that food security was not a function of aggregate population; even with their larger population, the developing countries consumed less food than the developed countries.

68. In India, 70 per cent of the population was dependent on agriculture, and most farmers practised dryland farming. India's comprehensive strategy for food security and agriculture development addressed the issues of improving economic viability, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, empowering small and marginal farmers and adopting appropriate price and trade policy mechanisms.

69. India welcomed the steps being taken by the G-20 to strengthen the coordination of food security policy and called for increased investment, greater use of modern technology and greater access to farm credit as a means of increasing agricultural productivity. Those in favour of liberalizing trade in agricultural products must accept adequate safeguards to protect agriculture, food security and livelihoods in developing countries.

70. India was committed to providing technical assistance to its fellow developing countries. At the recent India-Africa Forum Summit, it had announced several initiatives to improve food security in Africa.

71. **Mr. Madani** (Afghanistan) said that his Government had made agriculture its number one development priority. The national development strategy included policies to establish land tenure security, improve the rural transportation and irrigation infrastructure and provide access to drought-resistant crop varieties. With financial support from the United States, the Government had already established a farm credit fund.

72. All States should take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, food security and agriculture development should be given due attention at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

73. Finally, he said that with 12 million Afghans facing hunger as a result of the worst drought since 2001, his Government had had to appeal for an additional $142 million in disaster assistance earlier that month. While humbly urging delegations to stand in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, he thanked FAO, WFP and its other partners for their continued support.

74. **Mr. Souissi** (Morocco), noting that the share of official development assistance allocated to agriculture had fallen from 15 per cent to less than 5 per cent, said that it was imperative to invest massively in global agricultural production. It was also necessary to: (a) redirect investment to the farm sector; (b) regulate international markets with a view to improving wealth distribution; (c) keep track of world food inventories in order to prevent speculation and improve the coordination of global agricultural policy; (d) regulate private agricultural markets; (e) establish food distribution networks in conjunction with WFP; and (f) limit export restrictions and allow developing countries autonomy over food production.

75. In recognition of the interconnectedness of environmental protection and food security, Morocco had developed a "green plan" to address the problem of increasingly scarce water resources. It was also strengthening its national reforestation, soil erosion and reservoir protection programmes.

76. The global food crisis called for immediate cooperation between the relevant international organizations and other broad-based or regional groups; the recently initiated dialogue between the G-20 and the United Nations was one such example. In order to ensure better global allocation of food resources it would be useful to reproduce, at the regional level and in coordination with the African economic organizations, the efforts of the international community, by having developing countries make use of their storage capacity in order to prevent price volatility and speculation in food products.

77. In Africa, the food crisis had reached dramatic proportions; urgent assistance was needed not only in Somalia but also, to a lesser extent, in the countries of the Sahel. Elsewhere on the continent, regional cooperation such as the Nile Basin Initiative, undertaken jointly with the New Partnership for Africa's Development, was helping to boost agriculture development.

78. Morocco would continue to fight food insecurity by sharing its agricultural know-how and experience with developing countries, particularly in Africa.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.